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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 ARA-16 AMAD-01 /023 W
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R 011516Z FEB 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7675

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0784

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)

REF: STATE 024153

1. CONOFF SPOKE TO RAYMOND BONNER BY TELEPHONE 1/29/82. BONNER IS CURRENTLY IN MEXICO CITY. ACCORDING TO BONNER, PONSEEKE HAS BEEN IN EL SALVADOR FOR ALMOST 12 YEARS. PONSEELE'S SYMPATHIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH THE LEFT AND HE HELPED SERVE AT THE MEMORIAL MASS THAT WAS HELD FOR THE SLAIN FDR LEADERS IN NOVEMBER 1980. IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT PONSEELE STARTED RECEIVING DEATH THREATS, CILMINATING WITH THE BOMBING OF HIS HOUSE. PONSEELE DECIDED HE HAD TO EITHER LEAVE EL SALVADOR OR JOIN THE GUERRILLAS. HE CHOSE THE LATTER AND IN DECEMBER 1980 HE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT AND REAPPEARED BROADCASTING ON RADIO VENVEREMOS, THE GUERRILLA'S RADIO STATION.

2. THE BELGIANS CONFIRMED THAT PONSEELE WAS A LONG TIME RESIDENT IN EL SALVADOR. THEY SAY HE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT IN DECEMVER 1980 AND THEY UNDERSTAND HE IS WITH THE GUERRILLAS IN THEN MOUNTAINS.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION PONSEELE IS DESCRIBED AS TALL AND THIN WITH RED HAIR AND BEARD. HE REPORTEDLY DOES NOT BEAR ANY RESEMBLANCE TO SULLIVAN EXCEPT HE IS TALL AND HAS A BEAR. BONNER REPORTS THAT THE AMERICAN, LUCAS MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE IS NOT REPEAT NOT JOHN SULLIVAN.

4. PONSEELE'S EXISTENCE IS WELL KNOWN IN EL SALVADOR. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE WRITER OF THE 9/25/81 LETTER INCLUDED THE DETAILS ABOUT THE BELGIAN PRIEST TO GIVE THE LETTER A RING OF THRUTH. WE ARE STILL CONVINCED THE LETTER IS BOGUS. HINTON

2/1/82 - Dan Yaeger and Donna Agee informed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 15 1984
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